

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

SCCT-01 /059 W

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R 201101Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8816

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 3902

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT TH

SUBJECT: NSCT LEADER MURDERED

1. AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT), AMARET CHAISA-AT, WAS MURDERED ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 18. AMARET HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN FIELD WORK WITH FELLOW STUDENTS FROM MAHIDON UNIVERSITY IN NAKHON RATCHASIMA PROVINCE. HE WAS HIT BY A SHOTGUN BLAST AS HE WAS SLEEPING IN THE PAVILION OF A BUDDHIST TEMPLE COMPOUND WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER STUDENTS. EVIDENTLY THE KILLER STOOD UNDER THE PAVILION, AND LIFTED A FLOORBOARD TO FIRE THE FATAL SHOT.

2. THE NSCT IS CLAIMING THAT THE MURDER WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AND WAS AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE OTHER STUDENT ACTIVISTS. MEANWHILE, POLICE CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE NO CLUES IN THE CASE, AND HAVE NOT YET ESTABLISHED A CLEAR MOTIVE. THEY SAY THEY ARE PUZZLED BY THE APPARENT ABILITY OF THE KILLER TO DISTINGUISH AMARET FROM OTHER STUDENTS SLEEPING CLOSE BY IN THE DARK. IF AMARET WAS, IN FACT, MERELY A RANDOM VICTIM, THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS MURDER DIMINISHES.

3. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE AT THIS POINT WHETHER THE MURDER WILL HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON THE

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CURRENT SITUATION. REGARDLESS OF THE ACTUAL MOTIVATION,

HOWEVER, MANY ACTIVISTS WILL ASSUME THAT IT WAS POLITICAL,  
AND MAY IN FACT BE INTIMIDATED. THE NSCT IS  
BUSY PLANNING A PROTEST AND IS PUTTING UP POSTERS WITH  
AMARET'S PICTURE IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO MAKE A MARTYR  
OF HIM. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE STUDENTS' EFFORTS AT  
CREATING AMARTYR WILL HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT OVER  
THE LONG TERM, AND THE INCIDENT WILL PROBABLY BE  
REMEMBERED AS MERELY ONE OF MANY IN AN INCREASINGLY  
VIOLENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MURDER  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO03902  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760064-0952  
**From:** BANGKOK  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Date:** 07 JUN 2004  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NSCT LEADER MURDERED  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, TH, (CHAISA-AT, AMARET)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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